THE FOUR WINDS SHOTGUN

by Kurt Saxon

This is the simplest, safest, cheapest 12 gauge shotgun ever devised. It was used in the Philippines against the Japanese and was known as the "Slam-Bang." Anyone can get the parts and make it in a couple of hours.

If used outside the home it can be disassembled in seconds, its parts thrown in every direction, hence the name, "Four Winds." It can be fired several times a minute and has a moderate kick. Loaded, it weighs about 21/4 pounds. Basic cost, under $5.00.

It is made of common, galvanized plumbing pipe, bought from any large hardware store, plumbing supply or even junkyard. To make it you need a 1 inch cap, 6 inches of 1 inch pipe, threaded on one end and 10 Inches of 3/4 inch pipe. Then you need a 1 inch dowel, a No. 16 nail, a 1 1/8 inch circle of thin cardboard and some duct tape.

Gun with safety tape. Shells. Primer section.

Tools and various items you need are a metal cutting hacksaw, a sheet of coarse emery cloth, and some Super-Glu Gel, all gotten at any hardware store, cheaply.

First buy a foot of 3/4 inch pipe. If you buy only a foot you should cut the two extra inches off, yourself. It takes only about five minutes per cut. Having them cut costs 75 cents per cut.

Then buy 6 inches of 1 inch pipe. If it is scrap pipe it may already be threaded. If not, have them thread it, but only at one end. Then buy a 1 inch pipe cap.

There's no reason anyone should suspect you of anything, even if you buy everything at one hardware store, although you might buy the 3/4 inch pipe at another store. But if you should buy even four feet of 3/4 inch pipe, four caps and have four 6 inch lengths of 1 inch pipe cut and threaded and the clerk should ask what it was for, you might tell him your brother-in-law is making some sort of metal table.

If the pipes are cut for you, make sure they are reamed at the cuts. Otherwise there will be a heavy lip at the cut, which doesn't happen when cut with a hacksaw. You can get this lip off with a rounded file or just cut 1/16 off with your hacksaw. You don't want a deep ream at the shell end. The 12 gauge lip should rest on the natural lip of the 3/4 inch pipe. Otherwise it might sink into the reamed portion and be a little harder to get out after being fired.

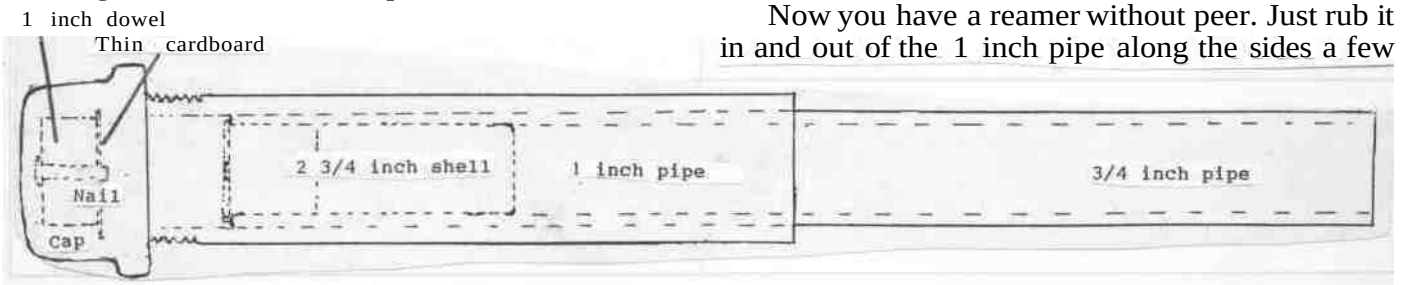
When you have the two pipes of proper lengths, insert the 3/4 into the 1 inch pipe. It will probably stick. You want it to slide through every time with no sticking or slowing. For this you need to make your own reamer.

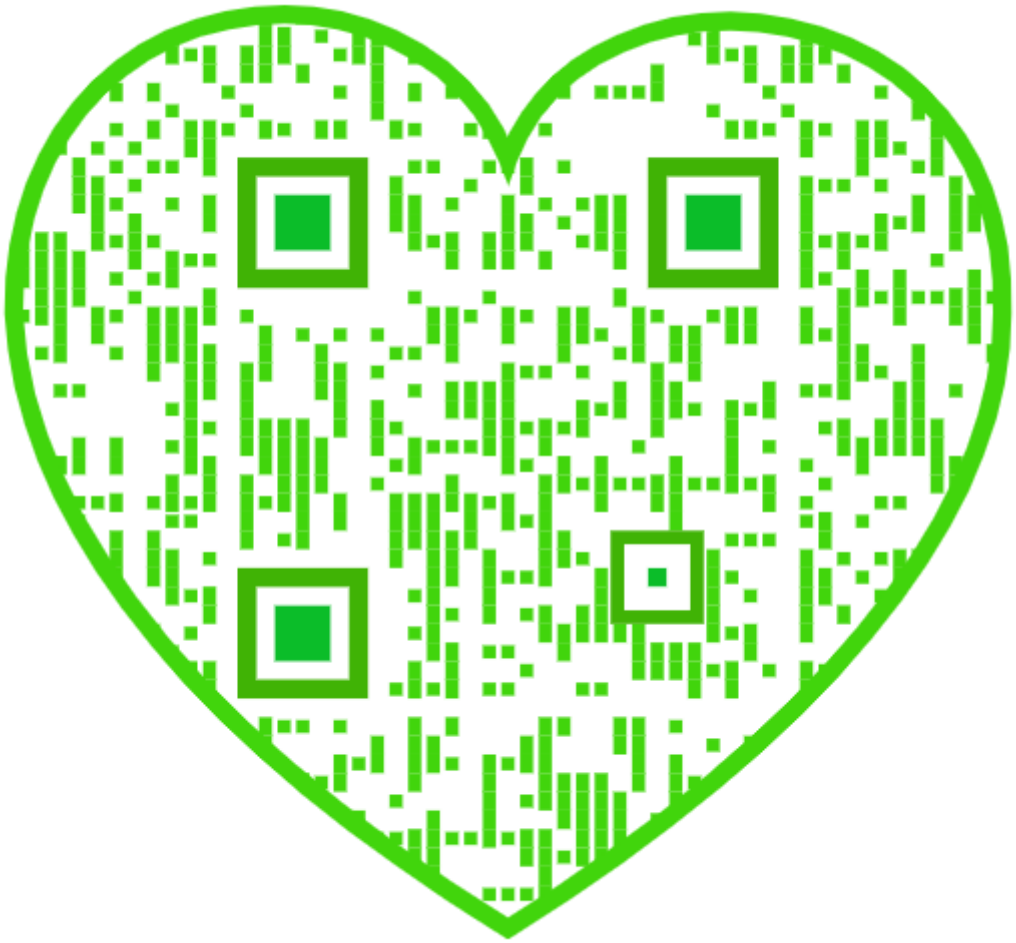
Cut 7 or 8 inches from your 1 inch dowel. Then cut a piece 5 x 3 1/16 inches from the sheet of emery cloth.

The 1 inch dowel I bought was actually 15/16 of an inch thick and my 1 inch pipe had an inside diameter of 1 1/16 inches. When you buy your dowel take the 6 inch pipe and make sure the dowel goes in with some space to spare. If the dowel fits exactly, it's too big and you'll have to choose the next size down.

Regardless, wrap the emery cloth around the dowel and mark it where it meets. Then cut off about 5 inches. Next, take the Super-Glue Gel and quickly squeeze a line down the length of the emery cloth. Quickly put the emery cloth along one end of the dowel and press evenly. Use gloves, as any glue on the fingers will make them stick. After about 30 seconds the cloth will be stuck tight and you can wrap it around until it meets. Then quickly squeeze another line of glue down the unglued side and press it up against the other side. You might quickly put several large rubber bands the length of the emery cloth to make it set evenly.

Now you have a reamer without peer. Just rub it in and out of the 1 inch pipe along the sides a few





times to get rid of any burrs or uneven areas. Try the 3/4 pipe and if it won't fall through without slowing, do it again until you have it fail-safe.

If the fault is with the 3/4 inch pipe, a few good rubs with the emery cloth on the dowel on any outside protruberances will even it off.

When it's done its job the reamer makes a dandy knife sharpener. Put it in your kitchen drawer. A couple of swipes down each side of the blade will keep your kitchen knives as good as new.

When you have the 1 inch pipe properly reamed, you make the hammer. First cut a half inch piece of the dowel. Choose a drill the same width as the No. 16 nail and drill a hole through the exact center of the dowel piece.

3/4 Inch pipe. 1 inch pipe. Reamer. 1 inch dowel. Hammer. Cardboard. Cap.

With your hacksaw, cut the nail 5/8 of an inch past the head. Then cut a 1 1/8 inch wide circle of thin cardboard and with the nail point, punch a hole in its middle. Push the nail section through the dowel hole and push the cardboard over its end with the rough side on top. Then push the hammer unit into the cap, cardboard side up. The cardboard is to keep the dowel and hammer in the cap. When you've fired it, If you feel the need to disassemble, just pick the unit out by the nail with your fingernails and flick it away.

Screw the cap on, put a 12 gauge shell in the 3/4 inch pipe, put the 3/4 inch pipe in the 1 inch pipe land it's ready to fire. Well, not quite ready, maybe. If you load it in your car and put it under your seat or load it in your home and put it near the door, fine. But If you're going to carry it around before using it, you need to make it fail-safe.

First, cut a piece of Scotch Tape a little over 11/2 inches down the middle. Take one half and put it across the middle of the shell over the primer and down both sides of the pipe. This will keep the shell from sliding out of the pipe when it's pulled out preparatory to firing.

Next you have to make sure it doesn't go off if you drop it. To make it fail-safe for a klutz, cut four inches of duct tape. Then fold one inch onto the tape to make a finger hold. Next, pull out the 3/4 inch pipe so the gun is 12 inches long. Then put the tape over where the two pipes meet and press it down firmly. This doesn't go all around but it doesn't need to. I held it 6 feet off the floor and dropped it and it held. When ready to fire, just grasp the folded over section and pull it off. Less than a second.

I'll bet while reading this you've been worrying about testing the gun. And testing is critical. You should never make a weapon and expect to test it when the time comes. Anyhow, testing this, or any other Improvised firearm can be done safely and simply.

You just cut through the shell, past the metal part with your hacksaw. Then pick out the wadding over the powder and pour it out. Next you put the primer part in the 3/4 inch pipe and put that in the 1 inch pipe. Then rest its mouth on a pillow and slam it home. There will be a pop that may be heard across the room, but not through the walls.

If it's a regular bullet you're making a test with, just pull out the bullet and pour out the powder. There's no need for noise or danger.

So here's a weapon, handy, concealable, devastating. In the event that you should use it in a semi-public place and might be caught with it, get rid of it immediately after firing. First take out the 3/4 inch pipe, strip off the Scotch tape and throw the pipe and shell in opposite directions. Then unscrew the cap and toss the 6 inch pipe. Now pick out the hammer unit and throw it and the cap in opposite directions. Follow this drill a few times and you can do it in five. seconds. Then go on about your business.

If you should be found at the scene after you've disposed of the weapon, just say it was a drive-by shooting. There is no possibility that anyone would look for, find, or connect the loose parts to any shooting. There are no ballistics or powder residue on the hands, as with a revolver. If used to defend your home, the disassembled parts spread around your home would not be noted. No weapon, no charge.

Just in case you recently came here from the moon, ownership of this weapon is Illegal. But having the various components spread around your home, ready to be put together when the time comes, is not actionable. Also. it's better to be judged by 12 than carried by 6.

When choosing a box of shotgun shells at a gun show, sporting goods store or Wal-Mart, you have a choice of several lengths of shell and loads. The most

common Is 2 3/4 Inches long. Common lethal buckshot loads are: 00= .32 caliber, 9 in the 2 3/4 inch, 15 in the 3 inch, and 18 in the 3 1/2 inch. Buckshot 0= 1.30 caliber, 12 in the 2 3/4 inch. For the No. 1 buckshot, which I think has .22 caliber pellets is 16 in the 2 3/4 inch.

I would choose the 2 3/4 inch shell with 12 .30 caliber pellets, but any of the above would be fantastic. This Is a close-up weapon, but then again, has a hell of a spread, due to the shortness of the barrel. One shot toward several opponents would be better than any semi-automatic.